

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume II, #3

Fall 1990

Single copy: \$ 3.00



1896-S



1901-S



1913-S

"Don't Lose Your Keys"

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When It Comes to Barbers, We Wrote the Book...

BARBER DIMES

1892 O AU55 Orig. toning ..75.	
MS63 NGC Toned	425.
1892 S AVF Surf. bit rough ..	53.
1893 O MS64 PCGS Cert	
White, Lustrous ..	1,900.
1893 S "Triple S" VF LC	30.
1895 F12 Nice	145.
1895 MS64 PCGS Cert.	
Olive & amber toning	
overall. Nice	1,850.
1895 O F+ Obv; VF rev	350.
1897 AU58	60.
1897 O VF LC; LS	87.
1899 MS61+ Sharp strike ..	100.
1900 S AU55	63.
1901 O AU50 LC	85.
1901 S VF CL &	
Minor Marks	115.
1902 S AU50 Minor mks	90.
MS62 ANACS Cache	
Nice	350.
1904 S F	70.
1905 O MS60	195.
1906 D AU58 Frosty	83.
MS61 PCGS Lt. toning	160.
1906 O MS64 NGC Cert.	
White, lustrous ...	1,250.
1907 O MS63 NGC Cert.	
Very lt. green toning	400.
1909 O MS60 LC	115.
1910 S MS64 PCGS. Frosty &	
very lustrous	1,475.
1914 D MS61	137.
1914 S MS60 LC	105.

**1915 S MS65 PCGS Frosty
white & untoned 5,300.**

BARBER QUARTERS

1893 MS60+ LC &	
Retoned. Only	145.
1893 S AU LC	210.
1895 O AU50 CL	165.
1895 S AU50 LC, Lt. scr ...	125.
MS62 PCGS Cert	
Medium orig toning ..	485.
1896 O AXF LC	165.
1896 S VF	725.
XF45 Sharp detail. Surface	
bit rough. RARE	1,150.
1897 O AU50 CL Beginning	
to retone. Minor mks	225.
1898 S AU	175.
1899 S AU Nice	180.
1900 O AU Mk. on cheek .	125.
1900 S AU Lt. toned	140.
1901 O VF30 CL; Scarce ...	125.
AU50 Sharp detail but	
clnd. Very Scarce ..	440.
1901 S G/AG Old lt. scratch	
Decent. Scarce	495.
G4	900.
1902 S AU50	165.
1905 S MS64 PCGS. Extremely	
frosty PQ. Great coin ...	2,375.
1906 AU58	125.
1908 D MS61	210.
1908 S AU50 Sharp detail.	
Surf. bit rough	335.
1910 MS63 PCGS Scarce	
Nice coin	525.
1911 AU	110.
1911 D XF45 LC Scarce ...	140.
1912 S MS64 PCGS White &	
very lustrous. Scarce ..	2,150.
1913 AU55 Nice	
Very Scarce	545.
1913 S F Very Scarce	850.

BARBER HALVES

1892 MS62 PCGS	515.
1893 O MS63 PCGS Cert.	
White & lustrous with	
a trace of toning .	1,575.
1894 AU	289.
1894 O MS61+ Lustrous ...	490.
1896 S XF40 LC	290.
1897 O AXF CL, decent.	
Very scarce	295.
1897 S VF/XF LC	250.
1898 O AXF LS, Rare	190.
1898 S XF45 LC	165.
1899 O MS63 PCGS Nice	1,275.
1901 AU53 Lustrous	265.
1902 O XF45 Minor mk. rev.	
Decent	185.
MS64 PCGS. Medium	
brown toning overall.	
Very Nice. Rare!. 4,600.	
1903 XF LC Scarce	125.
1903 O XF/AU	190.
1904 O AXF LC. Some lustre.	
Sharp detail. Decent	195.
AU50 LC Very sharp strike.	
Rare this nice	400.
1905 MS62 PCGS Nice ..	700.
MS63 PCGS. Flashy	
white & lustrous .	1,350.
1905 S XF	185.
1907 D XF/AU	175.
1907 S XF/AU LC	210.
1908 AU50	275.
1908 D AU Nice lustre	265.
1909 O AU	450.
1910 XF40	225.
1914 D AU55	130.
1915 VF20 Nice & orig .	170.
1915 S XF	85.
1916 D AU Nice	110.

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JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

--- Steve Epstein, Publisher - Barber Coin Collectors Journal

OFFICERS

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We welcome Paul Reuter as our Society's new Treasurer.

VP, Eastern Region
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Lititz, PA 17543

VP, Central Region
Jay Ordoyne
3828 Garfield Ave., South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

VP, Western Region
Lewis Sprague
P. O. Box 18401
Irvine, CA 92713

Contributing Editors: ● Dave Lange ● Bill Cregan

ON THE COVER:

Don't Lose Your Keys

Without argument, when one thinks of the three keys to the Barber Series, they have in mind the three famous quarters from the San Francisco mint appearing on the cover of this issue. It is even the perception of a number of people I talk to that because of the high cost of these three coins (about \$1,400 in good condition alone) and their very low mintage (300,703 combined), that many collectors shy away from assembling a quarter set. This is, however, not the case at all.

Surprisingly, many of our members favor the quarter series. With the eagle and stars reverse, it provides much more detail than the dime, especially in higher circulated grades. It also seems to have been less abused than the half, which fell victim to a campaign of harsh cleaning and whizzing back in the high price coin market of the 1970's, to make higher grade circulated pieces pass as uncirculated.

At the Seattle ANA , I met one very serious Barber quarter collector member

who had taken three weeks off work and driven 1,500 miles to be at the show to upgrade his set. I had the pleasure of witnessing his excitement when he purchased a very pleasing 1901-s in fine, and traded in his good. He had earlier purchased a very attractive 1913-s in VF, a rare find. I can share that excitement, for I am a collector too.

But I also felt the disappointment when I met a collector at the same show who discovered the 1896-s quarter he purchased two years earlier was really from the Philadelphia mint, and had an S mint mark very skillfully added later. A man of limited means, he was sickened by the discovery. Several of us consoled him and told him he should present his invoice and demand a full refund from the dealer.

Unfortunately, the coin industry, which is the lifeline of our hobby, has its criminals and confidence men like any other. And when it comes to the three keys, there's money to be made in counterfeiting. But an educated collector can help protect himself or herself by following a few smart steps before buying the keys. First, always deal with a reputable dealer; one who is well-established and enjoys a good reputation in the industry. Second, since a one grade variance can make a substantial difference in the value of the coin (especially the 1901-s), get a second opinion before purchasing. This is easier to do, of course, if you are at a show. If not, you can attempt to purchase the coin with a guarantee that a professional grading service will later authenticate it, and grade it a certain minimum grade. The authentication is important, since many dealers themselves can be duped by counterfeiters.

Next, always get an invoice for the coin with a repurchase guarantee at any time if the coin is proven to be phony. If any dealer refuses to give you that guarantee, I would question your sanity if you purchased the coin anyway. Also, keep that invoice in a safe place. You may never know when you will need it.

Finally, always keep your keys, as well as your entire collection, in a safe place. Bank vaults are best, but if you ever travel with them to show them to people, you must always know where your coins are, and never want to be obvious about what's in your possession. If your collection is valuable, you might consider insurance.

Nothing is foolproof, however, and even the best laid plans can go awry, but it's important to try. You see, I felt the extreme disappointment in that collectors' face; and, believe me, it's not something you ever want to experience.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Advertising Rates

Issue, rates will be as follows:

	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>Four Issue Contract</u>
Quarter Page	\$ 25.00	\$ 80.00
Half Page	40.00	130.00
Full Page	70.00	240.00
Full Page (Inside Front or Back Cover)	100.00	350.00

Deadline for copy will be September 1, December 1, and March 1

To place display advertising in the BCCS Journal contact:

Publisher, BCCS Journal

P. O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246

ADVERTISING POLICY

Any dealer or collector member in good standing of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society who is at least 18 years of age may place advertising in the Society's Journal. Minors under the age of 18 must first provide a "certificate of responsibility" from their parent or guardian before any advertising can be placed.

Only ads for Barber coins and associated supplies are permitted, although advertisers may provide generic descriptions of any other coins they sell. Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

The Publisher reserves the right to edit or decline advertising that is in conflict with BCCS bylaws. Unless otherwise specified in the ad, advertisers must accept the return of merchandise in the original holders that bears a postmark within 7 business days of the receipt by the customer. Any purchaser wanting to get an independent opinion of any coin must first notify the advertiser within the applicable time that the merchandise can be returned.

All advertisers must properly describe the condition of all coins advertised. Unless otherwise noted, the grading description of all coins will be in accordance with the "Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins."

Articles, questions, comments and ads are welcome and should be forwarded to: Publisher, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246

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TREASURY REPORT

January 1 - August 31, 1990

Income:

Membership dues

- Charter Member Renewals (325) (through August 31, 1990)	\$ 3,250.00
- New Members (136) (since January 1, 1990)	<u>1,360.00</u>
1990 Dues Paid	\$ 4,610.00

Cash Donations 440.00

Advertising revenue 400.00

Total income \$ 5,010.00

Expenses:

Journal Printing \$ 3,270.00*

Postage and mailing 340.00*

Other (Membership cards, etc.) 200.00

Total Expenses \$ 3,810.00

Balance/(Deficit) \$ 1,200.00

* Includes estimates for Fall Journal.

THE BARBER SHOP

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QUARTERS

1901-O	Fine No problems	\$ 49.00
1907-O	PCGS MS61 Light to medium toning on reverse	255.00
1908-S	PCGS MS63 Light gold toning. Nice!!	925.00
1914-S	XF48 Claims to AU. Nice coin	395.00

'We are strong buyers of all Barber coinage'

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- Grading by Photograde & ANA
- All coins guaranteed genuine

BARBER BARTER

The Barber Barter section is available as a service to any society member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. In order to accommodate everyone's ads, ads must be limited to 50 words per issue.

Send ads to: Publisher, BCCS Journal, P. O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246.

Ads received by December 1 will appear in the next issue.

I have the following Barber coins I'd like to trade for high grade certified Barber quarters: Barber Halves: 1906-S PCGS MS-66, 1892 PCGS MS-63 PQ; Barber Dimes: 1901-O NGC MS-64, 1905 PCGS PR-66, 1905-S PCGS MS-65. Please contact Glenn J. Church, 499 N. Columbia Ave., Columbus, OH 43209; (614) 253-1774, (407) 783-6389.	WANTED: Barber ERRORS, especially BROCKAGES and WRONG-PLANCHET strikes. Leave a PRIVATE message to SysOp, NumisNet (301-498-8205, 300/1200/2400 Baud, 24 hours) or write to: LDM, Box 5100, Laurel Centre Station, Laurel, MD 20726. Will trade. Thanks!
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DOWN TO ONE

I'm at that point that all Barber collectors hope to get at some time. I'm down to one on my Barber Halves collection.

I remember when I decided to work on the halves. I read about the tough dates, and many collectors told me about the tough dates. Everyone said to go for them first. As most of us know, some of these dates are 1897-O, 1898-O, 1901-S, 1901-O, 1914-P, and 1915-P to name a few. I went after these and found most of them. Not one person ever mentioned the 1897-S, and this is the one coin I need. My last four coins were 1895-S, 1897-S, 1901-O, and the 1905-O. I got the first three from Dave Lawrence, but still can't find the elusive 1897-S. I have seen it advertised in XF, but not in AU.

1897-S Barber Half AU-AU58 needed to Complete Barber Halves Collection. No serious problems, but "cleaned" is okay. Rich Nedved, 3974 Malvini Drive, San Jose, CA (408) 267-8284.

DOWN TO ONE

Ever experience the thrill, frustration, and sheer legwork that an owner of a so-called "active" date set of Barbers has? I'm here at the BCCS information booth at my first ANA convention with every Barber coin I own (except for a few in type sets), and after a day and a half of pounding the Bourse floor making my upgrade trades and buys, I can now say I'm DOWN TO ONE!

It all started in a shop in Tucson, Arizona in April, 1988 when, purely on impulse, I picked some low grade Barbers out of some coin tubes, among them a 1901 quarter in strict VF. Now, two and a half years and 72 dates later, all my quarters are strict F to VF+. Except one. No, not the 1901-s. I traded a G/AG plus \$1,800 for a nice natural fine yesterday. No, not the 1913-s. \$650 plus a VG coin got me a beautiful VF. Not the 1896-s either. Are you ready for this?

1907-S

That's right. I have an off-white one with a full LIBERTY (weak E), but heavy wear in the wreath feathers behind the ears, numerous small scratches and a weak reverse, F at best. A

coin that needs upgrading. Oh, I've got one or two others in F that are only a little better, but they have natural times and no problems. I didn't want to leave the convention without a solid F or VF 1907-S, but I may have to.

This is one of the sleeper dates of the latter half of the series, but I believe one can be found. I'd like to trade for it, but there are other ways of acquiring a coin of this nature. Legal, I mean. If there's anyone out there with a nice F to VF 1907-S quarter, I'm your man.

John Gardner, 829 Pearl Court, Cheyenne, WY 82007.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters from members are welcome and will be published as space permits. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit material in accordance with Society by-laws.

The publication of letters is not necessarily an endorsement by the Society of a particular opinion held by a member. Also, members claiming new discoveries should be willing to permit personal examination of such discoveries by a recognized authority so as to add weight to its validity. Arrangements for such examinations can be made through the Publisher.

Finally, letter writers will not be identified unless they give permission when submitting their letter, or have given their permission on their membership application.

An Appreciative Collector

As a new member of BCCS, I've just received the Spring 1990 issue of the Journal. I'd like to commend Jack Ehrmantraut for his fine commentary on Barber quarters. I believe I have the 1900 (O) MS-66 NGC that he mentions. I judge myself fortunate to own it. It has an obverse-edge-ring of beautiful toning on the outer one-third of the coin with a center bull's eye with such brilliance that will out distance even a proof coin. In my judgment on regrade, it should carry a MS-68. Once one sees a coin like this, one never forgets it. Its beauty rivals even my 1881 (S) MS-67 Morgan silver dollar. It is indeed an "incredible" coin. Finally, I'd like to compliment Bill Cregan for his article "Those Scarce New

Orleans Mint Quarters." Before receiving the 1990 Spring Journal I had just purchased sight unseen, with no return privilege, the 1904 (O) MS-67 PCGS. No other 1904 (O) is graded as high or higher by NGC or PCGS. My first reaction to the coin was one of disappointment and rejection much like a dog who has a bone that he judges with suspicion. The coin is fully toned and its obverse is a smokey gray. The reverse has nice toning shades of brown, green and blue with mild luster. Bill's article tells my why the coin is as it is. I can appreciate the coin now, for its rarity, thanks to Bill.

G. Church

National Collectors Organization

Re: Bill Atkinson's suggestion for a nationwide organization representing just collectors. One way to accomplish this would be to amalgamate all of the specialty collectors' organizations: EAC, CONECA, ANCA, Lincoln Cent Collectors, BHNC, Seated Liberty Collectors' Club, etc. Experienced collectors would

make the best consumer watchdogs and could support novices and of course, us. What do you think of this idea? If you think it's a good idea, maybe we should take the lead and establish ourselves as a leading force on the numismatic scene.

J.T. Donohue

COMMENTS & CONTROVERSY

By H. G. Tom Crogan

Grading Barbers

Indian Head Cents and Barber Coins, both of which are favorites of mine, are alike in many ways not the least of which is grading.

Most all, Collectors and Dealers alike, have their minds made up as to grade without ever looking at the reverse, unless of course it might be a 1908 or 1909....and they may have that KEY S MINT MARK reverse. Be even more careful with BARBERS as there are many more dates with which to be careful, as they too have that special mark that changes all grades.

If it were possible to completely grade ALL COINS without looking at mint marks, grades would go up and prices would come down. It makes no difference the denomination, whenever a KEY MINT MARK is discovered on the reverse, the grading hesitancy becomes mass confusion while the grader hurriedly searches for pricing guidelines and recalculates the worth and grade of the coin.

It would be great if even the Certified Grading Services were forced to place the coin in a circular holder, one made especially for each denomination, before being examined by the graders. This holder would allow visual examination of all aspects of the coin, except the Mint Mark...Slabs would become much more uniform in grades...irregardless of which service was used.

This Utopian Idea would do more to return the hobby to the Collector than all the Special Offers, promotions or hype.

Come play a little game with me all you BARBER COIN COLLECTORS, DEALERS, and/or SPECIALISTS. Whichever denomination: Quarters, dimes, or halves; in holders, flips or books, circulated or uncirculated..take out each mint.. the "O" from New Orleans..the "S" from San Francisco; the "D" from Denver and those without mint marks of Philadelphia. If you are working with dimes you have 25 Philadelphia; 17 from New Orleans; 24 from San Francisco as we don't count the 94s as most of us don't have such..and 8 of Denver.

Turn them all so the date is down and reverse is up and shuffle like dominoes. Be careful if they are uncirculated that you are not doing this on concrete. Now that they are well mixed, pick out four of each mint and place in a row of four each, directly under each other as we are now ready for our game.

Using the reverse only, and without peeking at the obverse, give each a grade. I have been specializing in only BARBERS and INDIANS every waking hour for the past five plus years and I HAVE MY DOUBTS that the grades given will be anyways near the grade that you would have given had you been able to see your ribbon or LIBERTY and hairlines.

I fear that the first overall glance at the obverse features determines a "Died-in-the-wool" opinion (grade) from which you cannot be shaken....unless of

course the reverse contains serious damage or a KEY mint mark.

90% of the gradings of BARBERS are done from the obverse appearances and those without experience may believe no differences exist in strikes of years and mints. Some look for repunched dates, doubling, state of the die, etc...others just look.

Perspective on a Coin Transaction

Grading from a different point of view is very easily done. All you need is 20 year old 20/20 vision or 65 year old 40/40. Or one can use incandescent light; another use an oil lantern and others trying fluorescent lamp; another a halogen lamp; still others grading in sunlight and others outdoors on a cloudy day. Then you may have those that know it all and those that know very little and the Big Dollar Man that relies on another to tell him the values of the coins in front of him.

The old saying about "Crying because I had no shoes until I met a man that had no feet" applies whenever you are in a grading controversy. Many aspects may differ so make those allowances. If you like the coin and like the price...buy. If you don't...don't buy. What is the use of argumental sparring in which there is never a winner.

If you are buying by mail get the ground rules first. Not every person or company is going to pay the return postage just because you didn't like the shine on LIBERTY'S nose. Your gripe may be perfectly legitimate. For every honest difference of opinion there are multiple numbers of feeble meaningless gripes that want to have all returns paid. If I get something extra, like Approval Shipments, I feel obliged to pay the postage/insurance BOTH WAYS. But if it's a Mail Bid and I disagree with the grading I surely don't enjoy paying a round-trip for another's mistake...BUT...you need to give the GRADING all the right conditions...Do You???

Barber Journal Takes Third as Best Club Publication

Your Journal has been awarded third place in the regional publications section of ANA's 1990 Club Publications Contest. The award was presented to Steve Epstein at ANA's 99th Anniversary Convention in Seattle.

There were 18 Entrants in the Regional Group, which included all organizations that are national in scope. Club publications were measured for content and presentation, among other areas. We're proud the Society has received such favorable recognition.

First place was awarded to *The NASC Quarterly*, published by the Numismatic Association of Southern California. Second place was awarded to the *Calcoin News*, published by the California State Numismatic Association.

NEW BUYING PRICES

BARBER DIMES

	<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>		<u>F</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>
1892-S	\$ 48	\$ 55	\$ 75	1899-O	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 60
1893-O	45	55	70	1900-O	20	30	75
1894	31	47	65	1901-S	80	140	225
1894-O	75	130	210	1902-S	12	25	55
1895	140	160	210	1903-S	75	120	175
1895-O	275	310	425	1904-S	55	90	150
1895-S	35	45	65	1905-O	8	14	30
1896-O	95	135	180	1906-O	12	22	32
1896-S	65	90	140	1908-O	13	23	40
1897-O	75	100	170	1909-S	16	32	53
1898-O	20	35	65	1913-S	25	60	100

-- NEED OTHERS --

Also Buying Quarters & Halves

KEVIN LONERGAN

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The Charles E. Barber Commemorative Medal



Reverse of Barber Medal

The third in the Coin Medals series of medals commemorating great coin designers.

This medal was issued to commemorate and honor Charles E. Barber, a master steel engraver and the sixth Chief Engraver of the United States Mint.

Charles Barber was born in London, England, in 1840. He learned his highly exact-

ing profession from his father, William Barber, who in turn had been taught steel engraving by his father, John Barber. William Barber was the fifth Chief Engraver of the United States mint, and upon his death in 1879, he was succeeded by Charles, who already had been assistant engraver at the mint for ten years. Charles Barber held the position of Chief Engraver until his death in 1917.

Barber was of the "old school" of coin designers. As coin makers had done for thousands of years before him, he cut his dies by hand, using the gouges and chisels of his trade. About 1900, an elaborate die-cutting pantograph machine was developed which made use of a greatly enlarged model of the coin, which the coin designer first sculptured. While this machine has eliminated much of the labor of die making, the artist still has to finish the fine detail by hand. Barber's fame rests on his great ability as a steel engraver, and not as a sculptor.

Barber designed more United States coins than any other artist, from his 1879 \$4.00 gold Stella to the 1916 McKinley gold dollar. He created the 1893 Isabella quarter, the Lafayette dollar, the Jefferson and McKinley gold dollars of 1903, the Lewis and Clark gold dollars, the Panama Pacific half-dollar. Also, in collaboration with his assistant engraver George T. Morgan, he made the Columbia half-dollar, the Panama Pacific quarter-eagle, and the 1916 McKinley gold dollar. In addition, he produced a great many beautiful medals, among them some Indian Peace medals, medals of Presidents Garfield and Arthur, and the Great Seal of the United States. Also, many pattern and experimental coins that were not released into circulation.

Among coin collectors and numismatists, Barber is best known for his 1892 to 1916 series of dimes, quarters, and half-dollars, called the "Barber Head" coins. Although he was acclaimed for his great talent in portraying actual persons on his medals, the "Barber Head" is probably a product of his creative imagination, a young woman's head symbolizing liberty and peace.

THE CHARLES BARBER MEDAL

On the obverse of this medal, is a depiction of Theodore Roosevelt, as Barber visualized him in an essay medal in 1907. This portrait is most appropriate for one of these Coin Medals, as President Roosevelt took a deep personal

interest in the coinage of our country. He can be named the "most numismatic" president, and he strived to make a coinage that would rival the beautiful coins of the ancient Greeks. In so doing, designers "outside of the mint" were engaged to submit coin designs, among them Saint-Gaudens and Victor Brenner. Barber did not approve of this procedure, as he felt that the "outside" designers did not have enough knowledge of coining requirements. In fact, this proved to be true with the first designs Saint-Gaudens made for his double-eagle, in which the relief was entirely too pronounced.

The reverse of this medal shows depictions of the familiar "Barber Head", and other symbols relating to Barber. His Columbia is shown casting flowers to this medal to commemorate him, while originally she cast them on the opening of the Panama Canal! Queen Isabella of Spain is portrayed on a United States coin. While a six-pointed star had always been used on U.S. coins, Barber was the first to use the five-pointed star on his 1879 \$4.00 coin, and later on the reverse of his 1892 coin series. His initial B is found as a very small letter on his coins, but most of his medals bear his first initials and last name in full.

THE ARTIST

The sculpture modelling and die-engraving on the Barber medal were done by Robert Stephan Schabel. Before this, Mr. Schabel did the Saint-Gaudens and Victor Brenner medals for the Coin Medals series. In the Barber medal, he shows a wonderful ability of "capturing a likeness", a quality which distinguishes a great artist.

Mr. Schabel was born in Germany, and acquired his education and medallic experience in that country. He came to the United States in 1960, to make his home here and continue his professional career.

THE DESIGNER

The Barber medal was planned and designed by Toivo Johnson, a member of the American Numismatic Association since 1940.

THE MEDALLIST

This medal was struck in the shops of the Medal Arts Company in Rochester, New York, a foremost first in medallic work in the United States.



The Barber medal was struck and copyrighted in 1962.

The above article was reprinted from the enclosure which accompanies the Barber medals. Recently, a number of these medals have come up for sale as the artist (Toivo Johnson) has died, and his estate is being liquidated. Please see the accompanying advertisement on the next page. -ed

The Charles E. Barber Commemorative Medal

From the Toivo Johnson Estate
Approximately 2,000 medals were made



(Actual size:
3" Diameter)



The sale of this estate has made approximately 50 of these intriguing medals available on a first come, first serve basis for only \$10.00 each plus \$1.50 shipping.

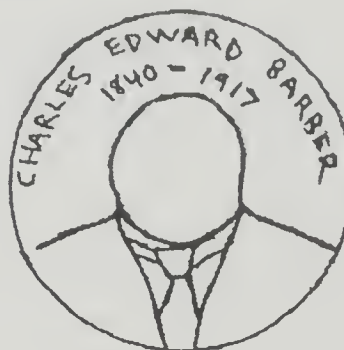
Please make checks payable to:

Allan R. Johnson
P.O. Box 128
East Holden, ME 04429

CLUB COMMEMORATIVE / LOGO SUBMISSIONS

Club Commemorative

The following two designs were submitted for the club commemorative coin. Names have been withheld to promote impartial voting.



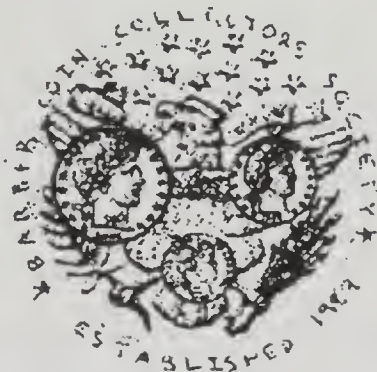
Commemorative Entry #1



Commemorative Entry #2

Logo Submissions

The following designs have been submitted for the club's logo (any of the above commemorative designs may be considered for the logo as well):



Logo Entry #1



Logo Entry #2

It has been suggested that the logo should appear on the reverse of the commemorative. More information on the commemorative appears in the comments on our General Meeting on page 12.

Your vote is important! Please write: BCCS at P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246 with your input on what the commemorative should be and your opinion on the logo.

GENERAL MEETING AT ANA

Our Society's Summer 1990 General meeting at the 99th ANA Convention in Seattle was called to order at 8:30 a.m. August 23rd. There were 25 members in attendance.

Steve Epstein opened the meeting by announcing that the Barber Society Journal had just received a third place award in the ANA Club Publications Contest. Steve thanked all those that have contributed to the Journal, with a special thanks to the **Numismatic Marketing Services** and John Feigenbaum for his very professional layout work of the most recent Journals.

It was then announced that a Club Treasurer has been appointed. Charter-member Paul Reuter has agreed to assume that role, and has already taken on the responsibility of performing the bookkeeping and maintaining the checking account.

Steve then told the members present that the Society's membership roles has grown to 461, and speculated that 500 members by year end was a distinct possibility.

Status on the Club Commemorative Project was then discussed. Based on the high cost of dies, one coin rather than a set of three will be minted. It will contain approximately one ounce of silver and will be about the size of a Morgan Dollar with a proof finish. The design will be selected from member opinion (see page 15). There will be 1,000 coins minted, each consecutively numbered as a limited edition. Based on the current cost of silver, the commemorative is estimated to cost about \$7.50 each. The thought is to sell it for \$10.00 to members and \$12.00 to non-members. Order forms will be sent to members later this year (probably with the next Journal) and will be available just before the 100th ANA in August, 1991. All profits will be added to our Society's Treasury.

Finally, the problem of bulk mail was discussed. A varying group of members do not receive their journals. It was suggested that any member who wants to assure receipt of each journal, can send in an additional \$3.00 per year to cover the additional cost of first class mailing, or can continue to request a duplicate when they don't receive one within 45 days of each quarterly publication cutoff. Steve said that members wishing to have their journals sent first class can send in the \$3.00 with their 1991 dues in December.

Others comments were raised as well. First, Dave Lawrence mentioned he was in the process of putting his Dime Book together and would like to hear from members on varieties he may have. Next, Jerry Cochel suggested pins identifying members; especially for use at meetings. Finally, it was mentioned that our advertising costs may be too expensive for collectors to advertise. We will examine our ad cost structure, including the new classified section recently implemented for collectors.

The meeting adjourned with an announcement that the next General Meeting will be held at the FUN Convention in Orlando next January.

CIRCULATED COINS GAINING FAVOR

Reprinted with permission of Coin World - March 28, 1990

By Keith M. Zaner

The demand for circulated key and semi-key date coins is rapidly increasing. Recent activity at major shows has indicated strong demand for 19th and 20th century rare dates. Is it the collector or the investor who is buying? It really doesn't matter because throughout the history of coin collecting, price appreciation for rare dates more often than not has been better than its common-date counterparts. The more difficult dates are usually last to occupy those spaces in one's album, including the difficult dates and Mint mark varieties which aren't readily available to the collector even if he is willing to pay the current prices.

Significant gains in value have occurred for these key and semi-key date coins. The Barber dime, quarter dollar and half dollar series quickly come to mind. The desire to acquire scarcer date Fine, Extremely Fine and About Uncirculated coins dominates demand. Not only is this a challenging task, but it can also be quite rewarding monetarily. There are many dates and Mint varieties which have been moving up in value. A look at recent Trends will bear this out.

The Barber coins are doing well because there are many semi-key and key dates available. A young collector becoming interested in the Barber series can afford the challenge and at the same time complete the collection in his lifetime. Of course, most would have to exclude the 1894-S Barber dime.

One new coin collector that I know has chosen Barber dimes. He picked this denomination over the quarter dollar or half dollar because it fits his budget better. Initially, the design interested him enough to want to know more. However, the chance to put together a decent collection in Very Fine or better condition became most attractive. Collecting these Barber dimes offers entertainment value, so there isn't any concern about future price appreciation, although I do think it is in the back of his mind.

Other areas of extreme collector interest today are in Indian Head 5-cent coins (commonly called the Buffalo nickel), Lincoln cents, Winged Liberty Head dimes (commonly called the Mercury dime), Standing Liberty quarter dollars and the Walking Liberty half dollars. These series offer the collector serious challenges and when purchased in circulated condition, are affordable. Of note, the Buffalo nickels have been sharply increasing in price for circulated key and semi-key dates. This is especially true for the tough San Francisco Mint coins such as 1913-S Bison on Plain, 1914-S, 1915-S, 1921-S, 1924-S and the 1926-S in Very Fine through About Uncirculated condition.

H.G. Tom Crogan

Rt. 5, Box 124
Gonzales, Texas 78629-9806

B.C.C.S.
#497

(512) 672-3209

T.N.A.
5049

WANT LIST

Barber 10c

1892 S
1893
1893 O
1894
1895 O
1895 S
1896
1896 O
1896 S
1897 S
1898 S
1900
1900 O
1901 S
1902 S
1905 O
1908 O
1908 S
1909 D
1909 S
1910 S
1915 S

Barber 25c

1893 S
1895 S
1899 S
1901 O
1903 O
1903 S
1905 O
1905 S
1906 O
1908 S
1909 O
1911 S
1912 S

Barber 50c

1892
1892 O
1892 S
1893
1893 S
1894
1894 O
1895
1895 O
1895 S
1896
1896 O
1896 S
1897 O
1897 S
1898 O
1898 S
1899 O
1899 S
1900
1901 O
1901 S
1902 O
1903
1904
1904 O
1904 S
1905 O
1906 S
1913
1914

These are coins needed for the EXTRA BOOKS. I would, at the very least, like to be able to clearly read LIBERTY. Any discolored or other problem coins are not wanted in any grade. I pay full postage and insurance BOTH WAYS on all approval shipments. Only interested in the above if priced at or below CDN Greysheet bid.

f
g
l

7

-

e

t

1895-O DIMES OWNERS

Directions: First, please determine if your coin has the regular mintmark or the "hair" variety. The mintmarks in Breen's Encyclopedia. Examine the mintmark portions of the 'O' are of different widths, your coin has the "hair" variety, then you have the latter variety.

Next, determine the technical grade for each coin, i.e., taking into account problems (if any) your coin may have. Check the boxes that best describe your coin. Please be candid about any problem.

Finally, at the bottom of this form note if any of your coins are dated, repunched mintmark, etc.

Please forward completed forms to: BCCS 1895-O Survey, P.O. Box 1000, future issue.

COIN #	TECHNICAL GRADE	MINTMARK		OBV. DIE VARIETY		SCR/RIM DINGS		LIC
		REG.	HAIRTHIN	#1	#2	MAJOR	MINOR	

Special characteristics (if any) Coin No. _____: _____

COIN SURVEY FORM

mark (Breen #3941) or the hair thin mintmark (Breen #3942) as determined carefully under 10X or higher magnification. If the top and bottom of the 'O' are hair thin, it is a regular mintmark. If both the top and bottom of the 'O' are hair

thin, grade your coin would have solely in terms of wear, without e.g., scratches, rim dings, cleaning, etc. Then fill the appropriate box, since most high grade circ. 95-O's seem to have some sort of

mark. Do not check any special characteristics, such as double profile, double

mintmark, etc. Send to: Coin Survey, P.O. Box 246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246. Results will be published in a

COIN DIPPED OR HARSHLY	OVERLY DARK	WEAK STRIKE	CORROSION	POROSITY	IF SLABBED, BY WHO

MORE ON THE 1901-S QUARTER

by Bill Cregan

Unquestionably, the rarest of all Twentieth Century silver coins is also a Barber coin, the far famed 1901-S quarter. In choice circulated condition there is no other Twentieth Century silver piece that comes even close to challenging it, and that includes the much lower mintage 1913-S coin.

In the beginning, the 1901-S quarter circulated on the Pacific Coast, namely the states of Oregon, Washington, and California. It is also possible that this rare date saw circulating service in Hawaii and the Philippines.

Extremely desirable in choice circulated grades, in pristine uncirculated it is only moderately scarce, although nice examples have sold for \$30,000 and more. Buyers of these glamour items are probably investors, for as every Barber collector knows, whatever his financial means, that building a BU Barber Quarter set is impractical financially, and probably impossible as well.

I have been told by a knowledgeable dealer that a sizable hoard of Brilliant uncirculated 1901-S quarters resides in Hawaii. The coins are the property of the heirs of King Kalakaua, who ruled over the islands in the 1880s. The king would order rolls of coins from the Pacific Coast for purposes unknown, and one of his orders included at least two Brilliant Uncirculated rolls of 1901-S quarters. These coins have remained intact in their original bank wrappers to this day, guarded by the king's watchful heirs. The king's roll accumulation of S-mint Barber rarities was appraised by another Southern California dealer for presumably insurance and tax purposes. The value of this beautiful and rare hoard is unknown to me, but I'll leave that to your imagination.

If this hoard is ever released into the coin market, it could put quite a dent into BU 1901-S quarter prices, and embarrass those dealers who sell to wealthy carriage-trade investors.

In Fine to XF grades, however, the 1901-S quarter is peerless. If there are any hoards in these grades I will eat this article, and compared to the full priced uncirculated pieces, the nice circulated coins will hold their value well and perform nicely as a collector's investment. The only trouble you and I will have is finding one!

VARIETY CORNER

This Issue's Contributor

Joe Haney

With this issue we bring you a new feature column. Some of our members have requested of Steve (president BCCS) information on variety coins of the Barber series. You will notice the word contributor above. That means exactly what it says. I have contributed to this issue. It is not my column but

rather our column, and every member is invited to participate in it's success.

Steve suggested the name and to me it sounds logical and to the point. The main purpose is to report new findings in the Barber dime, quarter, and half dollar series not only to our members but to the entire hobby. I know some of you dedicated Barber collectors have no more interest in variety coins than I do in collecting Yak teeth from Outer Mongolia. I hope you can bear with us. There are many, many varieties known already in each series and an endless number still waiting to be discovered, some quite startling.

Some ground rules will have to be set up. I think a general club meeting is the proper place for that so all members can have an input. For now I would like to pass on the best definition of a variety coin that I have seen in print. It is from the Cherry-pickers Guide by Bill Fivaz (pronounced Fee-vah) and J.T. Stanton. "Die Variety, Any significant change in the intended design of a coin, whether accidental or intentional, repeating exactly on each coin struck from that particular die."

So as to not dazzle you with footwork, let me list, briefly, where I believe our priorities should be. A major or minor design change such as a wing being made longer on a new hub. A doubled die coin where a die exhibits part or all of the design doubled and transfers that doubling on to a finished coin. An over date (OD) (1893/2 dime) or over mint mark (OMM), where a different mint mark or part thereof can be seen under a finished one (D/S or S/D etc.). A repunched mint mark (RPM) (1901-O/ Horizontal O dime) or repunched date (RPD), where a second or even third, part or all of another mint mark/date can be seen. Last the large (lg) and small (sm) mint mark (1905-O and Micro o dimes).

Now to get into the twilight zone. One more variety must be considered, the die cracks and die breaks (cuds). These are actually later die stages, but I am sure that somewhere down the line they are going to be collected in the Barber series just as they are now in the Early American Coppers. You as club members will have to decide what course we will take on these coins.

The first three coins I show here are 1914-D dimes, all with RPMs. Although the compass points N-E-S-W are used most often to describe the direction of a repunched mint mark, you can see all three are more overlapping and rotated or tilted. (Photo #1) should probably be classified D/D counter clockwise (CCW) tilted left. (Photo #2) D/D clockwise (CW) tilted right. (Photo #3) D/D clockwise (CW). All of these are unreported to my knowledge.

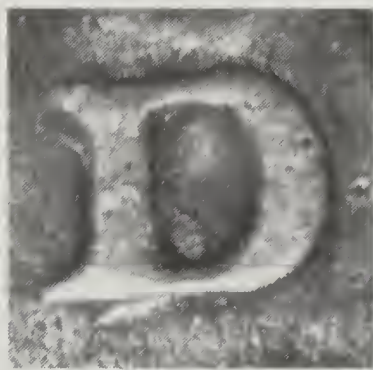


Photo #1



Photo #2

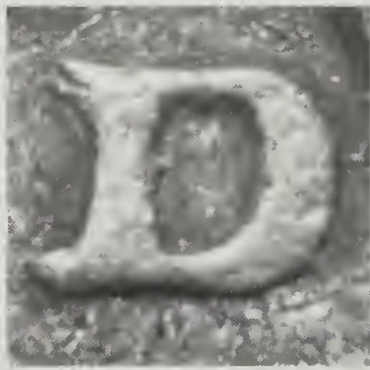


Photo #3

I would like to jump to the two half dollars next and save the quarters for last. You will see why soon, as they are quite interesting. Photos #4 and #5 are both 1912-D Barber half dollars. They were both photographed at the same magnification. If you look close you can see the 'D' in photo #4 is smaller than in photo #5. This is not due to a deeper set mint mark or wear in any way. All dimensions are about ten percent smaller in coin #4, inside and out. I would classify them as #4 medium mint mark and #5 as large mint mark.



Photo #4



Photo #5

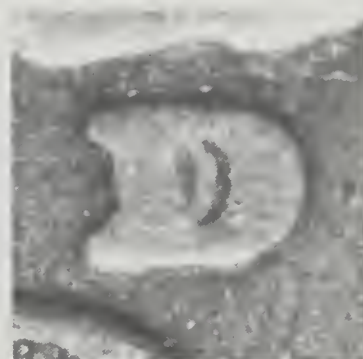


Photo #6

Now for the quarters. All four are 1916-D Barber quarters. The first (Photo #6) has been in my collection for a long time. Ever since I have had it, I believed it to be a large mint mark over a small mint mark. John Wexler and Tom Miller list it in their 'The RPM Book' as a 1916-D over D West RPM #1. Walter Breen also lists it as 1916-D Doubled D in his Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins with the notation 'Parallel uprights and curves of 2 D's (l. and r.) on early states; Later states (RPM 1) show uprights blurred together. This was all well and good until the second coin (Photo #7) turned up. At first I thought it was just another example of photo #6. I think I even put it away for some time and marked the hugger 1916-D/D RPM #1. When examining it some time later it dawned on me that it no longer looked like a lg./sm. mint mark. Sure enough when matching it up with the one already in my collection I could see the mint marks were placed at different angles. Of course this meant an entirely different die. Notice how the top of the under mint mark in #6 hooks back into the corner of the 'D'. In #7 it goes right up through the center of the 'D'. So now we have two 1916-D/Ds. I am still not convinced photo #6 is just a D/D.



Photo #7

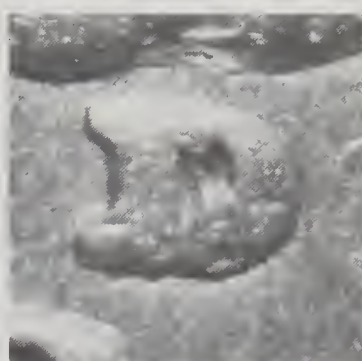


Photo #8



Photo #9

While checking all 1916-Ds I could find for a better specimen, another coin turned up (Photo #8) that after photographing, turned out to be yet a third 1916-D/D. The blob in the lower right hand corner of the 'D' is in the die as

I have another just like it. Notice how the 'D' in #8 is closer to the tail, while #6 and #7 are equally distant between the tail and the letter 'R' in QUARTER. Also the 'D' in #8 is farther left or west in relation to the split in the tail feathers than #6 is. Projecting a line along the base of the 'Ds', #6 will follow the radius contour of the letters 'R & D' in QUARTER DOLLAR and touch their outermost corners. #7 will veer up from left to right above the 'D' in DOLLAR. #8 will be above the 'R & D' but again on line.

The fourth (Photo #9) is still a controversial coin. Wexler says D/D/D (RPM #1) Breen a lg.D/sm.D (#4224). I had to borrow this copy to show you. It is low grade and doesn't show much detail but it is enough to give you an idea what to look for. No one has an explanation for the glob between the 'D' and tail feathers. The lower part seems to be broken away by damage. It should show the rounded base of a third or small 'D'. Use it as a guide.

Steve has also recommended we use Walter Breen's book as a base to build our listings of varieties. I highly concur. There is nothing in the hobby that can touch it. A copy is a must if you are interested in varieties. At least have access to one. The RPM book is in the process of being revised with new listings so you might want to hold off on that one for awhile. One word of caution. If you find a variety that is not listed in Breen's book, don't automatically think it's rare. It might be one that Walter just has not seen or thinks insignificant at this time.

I have a listing of around 100 varieties in the dime series that I have in my collection. They are in my computer and if any of you are interested, I will send you a copy for a business size SASE (2832 Jefferson Ave. Ardsley, PA. 19038). Just remember the list will be for reference only. Most have not been attributed or verified.

One last thing before I close. In order that we all talk the same language, when referring to a repunched mint mark (RPM), the under or secondary mint mark is the one that is referred to in relation to the finished mark. For example, (photos #6, #7, and #8) should be listed 1916-D/D west. The repunched dates are usually described a little fuller. Again the under or weaker date is described in relation to the finished date, left or right, high or low, tilted up or down from left or right. The doubled dies are something else. Someone more knowledgeable in them will have to volunteer an explanation as to how they are described.

Well, there you have it. The variety field is wide open especially in the Barber series. With Breen's book we all have a running start. But no matter who writes or how much is written, there will always be another variety to be found. All of us have a lifetime of hunting ahead of us. The pleasure each of us gets out of this hobby is what we are willing to put into it. And the greatest pleasure is sharing. Good hunting and let us know of your finds.

ANALYZING THE BCCS RARITY RATINGS (PART 1 - CIRCULATED BARBER DIMES AND QUARTERS)

by Peter B. Haishun

The final BCCS rarity ratings for circulated Barber dimes were presented with their official mintages in the Spring 1990 issue of the BCCS Journal. Table 1 accompanying this article presents the final ratings and official mintages for Barber quarters.

In this article, I will attempt to determine, based on correlations between ratings and mintages, how much of the current survivability of circulated Barber dimes and quarters can be attributed to the original production levels of each date. My analysis will also reveal "surprise" dates, which have either (i) lower-than-expected ratings despite relatively low mintage or (ii) higher-than-expected ratings despite relatively high mintage. This article is divided into three sections: Section I - Circulated Barber Dimes; Section II - Circulated Barber Quarters; and Section III - Comparison Between Dimes and Quarters.

As a note of introduction, I have found that arranging the rarity ratings by date in ascending order of mintage (rather than in chronological order) accomplishes two things. First, it allows each date's mintage to be seen relative to all the other mintages of a series, in terms of scarcity. Second, it allows us to easily observe the correlations between rarity ratings and mintages in each grade range, enabling us to detect unusual ratings ("surprise" dates) which stand out from the overall trends. (The source for the official mintages is R. S. Yeoman's A Guide Book of United States Coins - 43rd Edition (1990)). To further assist us in observing the correlations, I have omitted the "R's" from the ratings in the tables.

As a relative beginner to Barber coin collecting, I admit that I do not have all the answers to the questions I raise in this article; I mainly wish to call attention to some of the interesting trends shown by the BCCS rarity ratings. I hope the more experienced members can educate me if they have some of the missing answers!

I. Circulated Barber Dimes

As presented in the Spring 1990 Journal, following is a summary of the distribution of the BCCS rarity ratings for circulated Barber dimes:

Rarity Rating	G/VG			F/VF			XF/AU		
	Qty.	%	Cum. %	Qty.	%	Cum. %	Qty.	%	Cum. %
R1	32	43	43	26	35	35	25	34	34
R2	31	42	85	18	24	59	7	10	44
R3	11	15	100	20	27	86	12	16	60
R4	0	0	100	10	14	100	20	27	87
R5	0	0	100	0	0	100	9	12	99
R6	0	0	100	0	0	100	1	1	100
R7	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100
TOTALS	<u>74</u>			<u>74</u>			<u>74</u>		

The average ratings are 1.71 for G/VG, 2.19 for F/VF and 2.78 for XF/AU.

In examining the table of Barber dime rarity ratings and mintages, you may have noted that original production levels do in fact play a significant role in the survivability of circulated Barber dimes. Generally, the dates with the highest mintages are the most commonly available today, and the dates with the lowest mintages are the most scarce. There is high correlation between rarity ratings and mintages in G/VG; a trend line depicted by these ratings would be very smooth, with few deviations or “blips”. However, there is somewhat less correlation (a few more “blips”) in F/VF, and still less correlation in XF/AU. Thus, as the grade level rises, the distribution of the rarity ratings against actual mintages becomes more erratic due to lower correlation between the variables. In other words, the survivability of higher-grade specimens is less directly affected by their original production levels than is the survivability of lower-grade specimens.

If we “eyeball” the ratings in each grade range, we encounter the following “surprise” dates worth mentioning:

(a) 1913-S (Mintage 510,000). The second-lowest regular production date received lower-than-expected ratings of R2, R3 and R4 in G/VG, F/VF and XF/AU, respectively. Does this date’s late appearance in the series have anything to do with its relative availability despite its low mintage? Perhaps the public began to hold onto many of these as collector’s items, once the series was retired in 1916.

(b) 1900-O (Mintage 2,010,000). This is the highest-mintage date to have received ratings of R3 in G/VG and R4 in F/VF, and the next-to-highest mintage date to have received ratings at least a full level lower across the board. This date is an example of one with higher-than-expected rarity ratings. What is so special about this particular date, despite its mintage of over 2 million? (For a clue, see items (c) and (e) in Section II, below, for Barber quarters.)

(c) 1898-O (Mintage 2,130,000). This date’s ratings of R2 in G/VG and R3 in F/VF are comparable with others of similar mintage, but it received a higher-than-expected R5 in XF/AU. Indeed, this is the highest-mintage date to have received an R5 in any grade range. Where are all the XF/AU 1898-O’s? Is theirs the same story as that for the 1900-O above? (See the clue again — we may be on to something!)

The table also shows that the Barber dime series, despite a few “surprise” dates, is remarkable for its regularity. We see the best correlation between ratings and mintages in the lower grades, with slightly decreasing correlation as the grade levels rise. Furthermore, in no case is a rarity rating in F/VF or XF/AU lower than that for the lower grade range(s) of the same date.

Indeed, if we were to search among the many U.S. coin series for a better real-life, “textbook”, example of a rarity ratings distribution, I doubt that we could top this one for Barber dimes.

II. Circulated Barber Quarters.

Table 1 presents the final BCCS rarity ratings and official mintages for circulated Barber quarters. The distribution of the ratings is summarized as follows:

Rarity Rating	G/VG			F/VF			XF/AU		
	Qty.	%	Cum. %	Qty.	%	Cum. %	Qty.	%	Cum. %
R1	35	48	48	14	19	19	12	16	16
R2	29	39	87	19	26	45	16	22	38
R3	9	12	99	16	22	67	15	20	58
R4	1	1	100	22	30	97	19	26	84
R5	0	0	100	1	1	98	10	14	98
R6	0	0	100	2	2	100	0	0	98
R7	0	0	100	0	0	100	2	2	100
TOTALS	74			74			74		

The average ratings are 1.68 for G/VG, 2.77 for F/VF and 3.09 for XF/AU.

Examining the overall trends of these ratings, we notice quite a few "blips" in all three grade ranges. In fact, seen in the right-hand portion of Table 1, where we would expect to see nearly all 1's for these high-mintage dates, we see variations of as many as two rating levels (from 1 to 3) between adjacent dates in both V/VF and XF/AU. Such variations produce several "surprise" dates, as the following:

(a) 1899-S (Mintage 708,000), 1892-O (Mintage 2,640,000) and 1893 (Mintage 5,444,815). All three dates received higher ratings in F/VF than in XF/AU. Furthermore, the 1892-O is the lowest-mintage date to have received a rating of R1 in XF/AU. My guess is that the 1892-O and 1893 dates, being so early in the series, were saved by the public as collector's items, which could explain their disproportionate availability in the high grades. Many which were not saved were probably quickly placed into circulation, and the additional years elapsing since 1892 and 1893 could account for the relatively common specimens in G/VG.

Because the year 1899 is well into the series run, the above theory may not apply to the relationship between the F/VF and XF/AU ratings for the 1899-S quarter. I believe other, "external", factors (hoarding, large-scale withdrawal, melting, etc.) could have contributed to this situation, although I cannot say to what extent. On the other hand, ratings of R4 for F/VF and R3 for XF/AU are both within the ranges of other Barber quarters with comparable mintages (albeit of later dates). This is a Barber quarter date for which I need an education!

(b) 1892-S (Mintage 964,079). This is the lowest-mintage date receiving an R1 rating in any grade. For its low mintage, this is a lower-than-expected rating. The F/VF and XF/AU ratings are, however, comparable with other dates of similar mintage. Apparently, the San Francisco economy of the time required a quick infusion of coins into circulation. This is in line with

mintage figures listed in the 1990 Red Book, in that, during the period 1878 through 1891, quarters were struck at the San Francisco mint in only the years 1878, 1888, and 1891. Many 1892-S quarters could have therefore been quickly placed into circulation and worn down, accounting for the availability of this date in low grades.

(c) 1897-O (Mintage 1,414,800), 1896-O (Mintage 1,484,000), 1901-O (Mintage 1,612,000) and 1898-O (Mintage 1,868,000). All these dates received higher-than-expected ratings of R5 in XF/AU, considering their not-particularly-scare mintages. They are the highest-mintage dates to have received R5 ratings in XF/AU. Furthermore, the 1896-O is the only date to have received an R5 in F/VF. This strongly suggests a pattern with turn-of-the-century New Orleans Barber quarters (and Barber dimes as well, evidenced by items (b) and (c) in Section I above). If we consider the other New Orleans dates between 1896 and 1905, we see that specimens in XF/AU are scarce regardless of mintage. This suggests heavy circulation shortly after production.

(d) 1916 (Mintage 1,788,000). This date received low ratings in all grades, and is the lowest-mintage date to have received an R2 in XF/AU. Although the ratings for G/VG and F/VF are low for the mintage, the R2 rating for XF/AU is probably attributable to the fact that 1916 is the last year of the Barber series. Both its "youth", and the probability that many specimens were saved after the Standing Liberty series was introduced, could account for the relative commonness of this date in high grades.

(e) 1902-O (Mintage 4,748,000). This date received higher-than-expected ratings across the board, despite its relatively large mintage. It is the highest-mintage date to have received an R2 rating for G/VG and an R4 rating for XF/AU. Part of the scarcity in XF/AU may be attributable to the situation discussed in (c) above, but I am at a loss to explain the "less common" rating for G/VG. Perhaps large numbers of New Orleans coins were removed from circulation and melted.

(f) 1897 (Mintage 8,140,731) and 1903 (Mintage 9,670,064). Both dates received higher-than-expected R3 ratings in XF/AU, despite their high mintages. Evidently, the turn of the century was a time of rapid economic expansion in this country (at least in the East); therefore a high percentage of coins must have been quickly placed into circulation, changing many hands, shortly after production. This could account for the relative scarcity in the high grades. If the expansion occurred in waves, that could further account for the higher ratings for these dates in XF/AU, compared with the lower, more-expected ratings assigned to the other high-production dates during these years.

Needless to say, the BCCS rarity ratings for circulated Barber quarters do not form as "normal" or "textbook-like" a distribution, based on mintage, as do those for circulated Barber dimes.

III. Comparison Between Dimes and Quarters.

Now that we have two sets of BCCS rarity ratings to compare, we can see that there are at least as many differences between the Barber dime and Barber quarter distributions as there are similarities.

As shown by the distribution summaries in Sections I and II, the average ratings for the G/VG grade range of both series are virtually identical (1.71 for dimes versus 1.68 for quarters). However, it is at the F/VF and XF/AU grade ranges where the average ratings of the quarters are significantly higher than those of dimes. This is because (i) the quarter ratings were spread over more rating levels and (ii) the largest quantities of F/VF and XF/AU ratings occurred at the R4 level for quarters versus the R1 level for dimes. These differences in "skew" resulted in the somewhat "bumpier" patterns assumed by the quarter ratings when plotted against the official mintages. These in turn produced several more "surprise" dates which stood out from the overall trends. Yet, however, as also evidenced by the "surprise" dates, both series encountered relative scarcity in high-grade turn-of-the-century New Orleans specimens.

We can therefore conclude that original production levels play a significant role in the current survivability of G/VG Barber dimes and quarters. The survivability of higher-grade specimens of both series, while still affected to a large degree by original production, may also be the result of "external" factors, which are not based on production. As we saw in Section II, even chronological age plays enough of a role on the survivability of certain 1892, 1893 and 1916 Barber quarter dates to have a noticeable effect on current populations and rarity ratings for these outlying years.

Observing the "surprises" disclosed by the BCCS rarity ratings, and speculating on their causes, makes collecting Barber coins a very satisfying experience. It will be interesting to see how the rarity ratings for circulated Barber half dollars compare with those for circulated Barber dimes and quarters. When they are published and analyzed, we will see whether their distribution is more "normal" than that of the dimes, or more "bumpy" than that of the quarters (or somewhere in between).

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TABLE 1

CIRCULATED BARBER QUARTERS
COMPARISON OF BCCS RARITY RATINGS TO OFFICIAL MINTAGES IN ASCENDING ORDER

BCCS Rarity Ratings					BCCS Rarity Ratings					BCCS Rarity Ratings				
Date	Mintage	YG	F/	XF/	Date	Mintage	YG	F/	XF/	Date	Mintage	YG	F/	XF/
1913-S	40,000	3	6	7	1901-O	1,612,000	3	4	5	1896	3,874,762	1	2	2
1901-S	72,664	4	6	7	1895-S	1,764,681	3	4	4	1908	4,232,545	1	2	2
1896-S	188,039	3	4	5	1916	1,788,000	1	2	2	1912	4,400,700	1	1	1
1914-S	264,000	3	4	5	1900-S	1,858,585	2	2	2	1895-	4,440,880	1	2	3
1913	484,613	2	4	4	1898-O	1,868,000	2	4	5	1907-O	4,560,000	1	2	2
1897-S	542,229	2	4	5	1905-S	1,884,000	2	3	3	1902-O	4,748,000	2	3	4
1915-S	704,000	2	3	3	1906-O	2,056,000	1	3	3	1905	4,968,250	1	2	2
1899-S	708,000	2	4	3	1910	2,244,551	2	3	3	1909-D	5,114,000	1	1	1
1912-S	708,000	2	4	4	1904-O	2,456,000	2	4	4	1893	5,444,815	1	3	2
1909-O	712,000	2	4	4	1907-D	2,484,000	2	4	4	1908-D	5,788,000	1	2	2
1908-S	784,000	3	4	5	1892-O	2,640,000	2	2	1	1908-O	6,244,000	1	1	1
1911-D	933,600	2	4	5	1899-O	2,644,000	2	3	4	1914	6,244,610	1	1	1
1892-S	964,079	1	4	4	1894-S	2,648,821	1	3	3	1916-D	6,540,800	1	1	1
1911-S	988,000	2	4	5	1895-O	2,816,000	2	4	4	1907	7,192,575	1	1	1
1898-S	1,020,592	2	3	3	1894-O	2,852,000	2	4	4	1897	8,140,731	1	2	3
1903-S	1,036,000	3	3	4	1914-D	3,046,000	1	1	1	1892	8,237,245	1	1	1
1905-O	1,230,000	2	4	4	1906-D	3,280,000	1	3	3	1901	8,892,813	1	1	2
1909-S	1,348,000	1	2	3	1893-O	3,396,000	2	3	3	1909	9,268,650	1	1	1
1907-S	1,360,000	2	4	4	1900-O	3,416,000	2	3	4	1904	9,588,813	1	1	2
1897-O	1,414,800	2	4	5	1894	3,432,972	2	2	3	1903	9,670,064	1	2	3
1913-D	1,450,800	1	2	3	1915	3,480,450	1	1	1	1900	10,016,912	1	2	2
1893-S	1,454,535	3	4	4	1903-O	3,500,000	2	3	4	1898	11,100,735	1	2	2
1896-O	1,484,000	3	5	5	1906	3,656,435	1	2	2	1902	12,197,744	1	1	2
1910-D	1,500,000	2	3	4	1915-D	3,694,000	1	1	1	1899	12,624,846	1	2	2
1902-S	1,524,612	2	3	4	1911	3,720,543	1	2	2					

TABLE 2

CIRCULATED BARBER QUARTERS
COMPARISON OF BCCS RARITY RATINGS TO OFFICIAL MINTAGES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

BCCS Rarity Ratings				BCCS Rarity Ratings				BCCS Rarity Ratings						
Date	Mintage	G/ YG	F/ YE	XF/ AU	Date	Mintage	G/ YG	F/ YE	XF/ AU	Date	Mintage	G/ YG	F/ YE	XF/ AU
1892	8,237,245	1	1	1	1900-O	3,416,000	2	3	4	1908-O	6,244,000	1	1	1
1892-O	2,640,000	2	2	1	1900-S	1,858,585	2	2	2	1908-S	784,000	3	4	5
1892-S	964,079	1	4	4	1901	8,892,813	1	1	2	1909	9,268,650	1	1	1
1893	5,444,815	1	3	2	1901-O	1,612,000	3	4	5	1909-D	5,114,000	1	1	1
1893-O	3,396,000	2	3	3	1901-S	72,664	4	6	7	1909-O	712,000	2	4	4
1893-S	1,454,535	3	4	4	1902	12,197,744	1	1	2	1909-S	1,348,000	1	2	3
1894	3,432,972	2	2	3	1902-O	4,748,000	2	3	4	1910	2,244,551	2	3	3
1894-O	2,852,000	2	4	4	1902-S	1,524,612	2	3	4	1910-D	1,500,000	2	3	4
1894-S	2,648,821	1	3	3	1903	9,670,064	1	2	3	1911	3,720,543	1	2	2
1895	4,440,880	1	2	3	1903-O	3,500,000	2	3	4	1911-D	933,600	2	4	5
1895-O	2,816,000	2	4	4	1903-S	1,036,000	3	3	4	1911-S	988,000	2	4	5
1895-S	1,764,681	3	4	4	1904	9,588,813	1	1	2	1912	4,400,700	1	1	1
1896	3,874,762	1	2	2	1904-O	2,456,000	2	4	4	1912-S	708,000	2	4	4
1896-O	1,484,000	3	5	5	1905	4,968,250	1	2	2	1913	484,613	2	4	4
1896-S	188,039	3	4	5	1905-O	1,230,000	2	4	4	1913-D	1,450,800	1	2	3
1897	8,140,731	1	2	3	1905-S	1,884,000	2	3	3	1913-S	40,000	3	6	7
1897-O	1,414,800	2	4	5	1906	3,656,435	1	2	2	1914	6,244,610	1	1	1
1897-S	542,229	2	4	5	1906-D	3,280,000	1	3	3	1914-D	3,046,000	1	1	1
1898	11,100,735	1	2	2	1906-O	2,056,000	1	3	3	1914-S	264,000	3	4	5
1898-O	1,868,000	2	4	5	1907	7,192,575	1	1	1	1915	3,480,450	1	1	1
1898-S	1,020,592	2	3	3	1907-D	2,484,000	2	4	4	1915-D	3,694,000	1	1	1
1899	12,624,846	1	2	2	1907-O	4,560,000	1	2	2	1915-S	704,000	2	3	3
1899-O	2,644,000	2	3	4	1907-S	1,360,000	2	4	4	1916	1,788,000	1	2	2
1899-S	708,000	2	4	3	1908	4,232,545	1	2	2					
1900	10,016,912	1	2	2	1908-D	5,788,000	1	2	2					

The 1895-O Dime: Undervalued Rarity and Some Interesting Varieties

by J.T. Donohue

What key date silver coin in the CDN Monthly Summary has an AU bid price of less than \$800? The 1916-D Mercury Dime and the 1916 Standing Quarter both command four figures. So does the 1921-S Walker and the 1901-S Barber Quarter. One could argue that the two most expensive Barber Halves, the 1897-O and the 1901-S might price below or close to that amount, but figures show them running very close together, so that neither can be considered to be the key to the series.

The answer to the above question is the 1895-O Dime, which currently bids at \$700 in AU. Even more interesting is the fact that the 1895-O Dime appears to be scarcer than any of its above mentioned counterparts with the exception, of course, of the 1901-S Quarter. This conclusion seems to be at least partly supported by certain authorities with whom I have spoken, but more conclusive evidence can be drawn from a survey of three leading numismatic periodicals (Coin World, Coinage & Coins) conducted over the last two years. During that time, I was able to find one high-grade circulated 1895-O Dime offered for sale, a VF by J. J. Teaparty. I left even more secure in my conviction when the results of the BCCS Dime Survey were published in our Winter, 1990 issue: The 1895-O was assigned an R-6 for the XF-AU grade level.

Although I don't collect Barber Quarters, I nonetheless took a look at the initial results of our Quarter Survey when they appeared in our Spring issue. From this survey, I gained even greater insights into the relative scarcity of high grade circulated 1895-O Dimes:

1. The 1896-S Quarter with a mintage of less than half of the 1895-O Dime (188,000 vs. 440,000) had received an R5 for the XF-AU category as compared to an R6 for the 1895-O Dime at the same level.
2. Furthermore, both the 1901-S and the 1913-S received an R6 at the F-VF level, which is equivalent to that assigned to the 1895-O for XF-AU.

Given the four figure values assigned to the "big three" Barber Quarters in the grades noted above, it would seem an understatement to say that XF and AU 1895-O Dimes are undervalued. Not only are they undervalued, but in spite of their small mintage may have unusual varieties waiting to be discovered.

The first variety concerns the thin "O" mint mark which is described on the survey form itself. This variety is mentioned in Breen. Although he makes no observation about the relative rarity of the thin versus the regular mint mark, I have seen only one coin with the thin mint mark since I had read about it; and that coin was an AG. Of the five high grade specimens I had examined since learning of the distinction, none of them had the thin mint mark. So, who knows? If you have a coin that only grades good, but with a

thin mint mark, you could have a condition census variety coin.

Last March, when I had the pleasure of owning (only for about 48 hours) three 1895-O dimes in VF or better, I discovered that there are two different obverse dies for the 1895-O dime. These coins are described as follows: (1) VF, dark, scratch in obverse field, 5 in date about touches base of Liberty's neck and (2) all dipped, scratch in obverse field: 5 touches Liberty's neck. Since my own AU is 2,000 miles away, I'm not sure whether it is variety #1 or #2, but I think it is #2. The other two specimens have since been returned to their former owners.

The difference in positioning of the date is slight enough that these two obverse varieties may not (only may not) be distinguishable in grades below VG. Rather than jumping to any premature conclusions, however, we would like to hear from you so we can get a better idea of "what's out there." Since our membership stands at over 450, if many of you can respond, we will have a sufficiently large statistical sample that will enable us to draw reliable conclusions. So, please take a few moments to fill out the survey form following this article. Results will be published in a future issue.

Even if you only have an AG, we would still like to hear from you since two of the questions involve varieties which may only occur in the lower grades.



Pictures #1 & 2: Obverse & reverse of an AU 1895-O dime owned by J. T. Donohue. Far five and standard mint-mark.



Photo #3: The three dimes of 1895. Clockwise from lower left: 1895-O, AU; 1895-P, VF30; 1895-S, F. Note: 1895-P is missing inner portion of top ribbon, thus identifying it as a specimen of the rare "lapped die" variety described in Breen's Encyclopedia. The 1895-P & O are from the J. T. Donohue collection.

1895-S is owned by Arno Safran. In more than two years looking, this is the finest 1895-S the author has seen (I do not collect uncirculated coins). At the risk of contradicting the BCCS Rarity Ratings, I believe that the 1895-S may very well be the finest scarcest of the three in grades Fine through AU.

Reasons in support of this contention are derived from both logic and numismatic conjecture, which for the sake of space, are best to be left explained in a future article. In the meantime, how many 1895-S dimes in Fine or better do we have out there?



Picture #4: The reverse s of the three 1895 dimes shown in photo #3. Clockwise from lower left: 1895-O, 1895-P, and the 1895-S.

The Three Obverse Die Varieties of the 1895-O Dime



#1: Far Five: Gap between 5 and base of neck is visible to naked eye and can be detected without magnification.



#2: Near Five: Five is much closer to base of neck than 'Far 5.' In Breen's terminology, we could call this "Five about touch," as most of us would need a magnifier to tell for sure if five is touching neck or not.



#3: Five Touching: the top right tip of the five actually touches base of neck.

All three varieties come with the same sized mintmark. Which variety do you have and how scarce is it? The only way to answer that question is for all of us to examine our pieces, fill out the survey forms, and send them to: J. T. Donohue, 1438 Noah Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Results will be reported in an upcoming Journal issue.

BARBER COIN COLLECTOR'S SOCIETY
CIRCULATED BARBER QUARTER RARITY RATINGS
FINAL SURVEY RESULTS
RARITY RATING GUIDE

Ratings Definition of Rarity Ratings

- R1 Common; Readily available.
- R2 Less Common; Available at most shows, but in limited quantity.
- R3 Scarce; Somewhat difficult to find, only a few likely to be found at larger shows.
- R4 Very Scarce; May or may not find any at large shows. On most Collector want lists.
- R5 Rare; Unlikely more than 5 may appear at larger shows or auctions in a year's time.
- R6 Very Rare; Almost never found. One may not appear for sale in a year's time.
- R7 Prohibitively Rare; Only one may appear for sale every few years.
- R8 Unique; Or almost so.

	G/VG	F/VF	XF/AU		G/VG	F/VF	XF/AU
1892	R1	R1	R1				
1892-O	R2	R2	R1	1905	R1	R2	R2
1892-S	R1	R4	R4	1905-O	R2	R4	R4
1893	R1	R3	R2	1905-S	R2	R3	R3
1893-O	R2	R3	R3	1906	R1	R2	R2
1893-S	R3	R4	R4	1906-D	R1	R3	R3
1894	R2	R2	R3	1906-O	R1	R3	R3
1894-O	R2	R4	R4	1907	R1	R1	R1
1894-S	R1	R3	R3	1907-D	R2	R4	R4
1895	R1	R2	R3	1907-O	R1	R2	R2
1895-O	R2	R4	R4	1907-S	R2	R4	R4
1895-S	R3	R4	R4	1908	R1	R2	R2
1896	R1	R2	R2	1908-D	R1	R2	R2
1896-O	R3	R5	R5	1908-O	R1	R1	R1
1896-S	R3	R4	R5	1908-S	R3	R4	R5
1897	R1	R2	R3	1909	R1	R1	R1
1897-O	R2	R4	R5	1909-D	R1	R1	R1
1897-S	R2	R4	R5	1909-O	R2	R4	R4
1898	R1	R2	R2	1909-S	R1	R2	R3
1898-O	R2	R4	R5	1910	R2	R3	R3
1898-S	R2	R3	R3	1910-D	R2	R3	R4
1899	R1	R2	R2	1911	R1	R2	R2
1899-O	R2	R3	R4	1911-D	R2	R4	R5
1899-S	R2	R4	R3	1911-S	R2	R4	R5
1900	R1	R2	R2	1912	R1	R1	R1
1900-O	R2	R3	R4	1912-S	R2	R4	R4
1900-S	R2	R2	R2	1913	R2	R4	R4
1901	R1	R1	R2	1913-D	R1	R2	R3
1901-O	R3	R4	R5	1913-S	R3	R6	R7
1901-S	R4	R6	R7	1914	R1	R1	R1
1902	R1	R1	R2	1914-D	R1	R1	R1
1902-O	R2	R3	R4	1914-S	R3	R4	R5
1902-S	R2	R3	R4	1915	R1	R1	R1
1903	R1	R2	R3	1915-D	R1	R1	R1
1903-O	R2	R3	R4	1915-S	R2	R3	R3
1903-S	R3	R3	R4	1916	R1	R2	R2
1904	R1	R1	R2	1916-D	R1	R1	R1
1904-O	R2	R4	R4				

ODDS & ENDS

- Circulated Barber Quarter Rarity Rating - Final Survey Results appear on page 33 of this Journal. There were three comments regarding the preliminary results that appeared in the last Journal on page 35. All feedback received since that time indicates that no changes should be made to the preliminary findings.
- An article promoting the Barber series entitled "Barbers - The Renaissance has Begun," by your publisher, is scheduled to appear in the November 1990 issue of The Numisatist.
- The October issue of Coinage magazine contains an article about our Society entitled "For the Love of Barber."
- Since reporting our change of address in the last Journal, the post office has changed our zip code. Our new address is: BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246. What else is new!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Any member may run a classified ad in the Journal. The rules as well as the deadline run much the same way as for display advertising. The cost is 20 cents per word, with a \$5.00 minimum. Words count as follows: Date & mint-mark - 1 word; name initials - 1 word; address # - 1 word; zip code - 1 word.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the Classified Section is for you.

BARBER QUARTERS WANTED. VG & better. Two of each. 1892-s, 1893-s, 1894-p, 1895-o, 1895-s, 1896-o, 1898-o, 1899-s, 1901-o, 1903-s, 1905-o, 1907-d, 1908-s, 1909-o, 1911-s, 1912-s. I pay postage - insurance BOTH WAYS on all approvals. Immediate purchase or immediate return. Crogan, R5, B214, Gonzales, TX 78629.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Send the form below or copy the information on a separate sheet of paper and forward with your check or money order to: Membership, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246.

Barber Coin Collectors Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check the description that applies to you. ☐ Collector ☐ Dealer

My collection interests: _____

My name and address may ☐ may not ☐ be made available to other club members.

Dues - \$10.00 per calendar year. Those who join during the year will receive all journals published for that year.

Signature

Date

Change of Address: To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your Journal in a timely fashion, please allow 6 weeks for a change of address. Send all address changes to: Membership Address Changes, BCCS, P.O. Box 382246, Memphis, TN 38183-2246.

